

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON  
RESOLUTION 2026-3.14**

**RESOLUTION OF THE PENNINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION BY THE  
LAWRENCE HOPEWELL TRAIL CORPORATION FOR  
FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING  
FOR THE LHT ELM RIDGE SEGMENT RECONSTRUCTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence Hopewell Trail (LHT) is a 20-mile multi-use trail connecting communities across Mercer County, New Jersey, providing non-motorized transportation and recreational opportunities to tens of thousands of residents annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elm Ridge segment of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail runs alongside Pennington Rocky Hill Road and serves as a critical link between the Watershed open space, Mercer Meadows, and the Pennington Connector — directly connecting to the Borough of Pennington and making it one of the most heavily traveled and community-significant sections of the LHT; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elm Ridge segment was originally constructed by then-property owner Bristol Myers Squibb in 2005, with the trail easement granted to the non-profit Lawrence Hopewell Trail Corporation (LHTC), making the LHTC responsible for its upkeep and maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, following the sale of the Bristol Myers Squibb campus to Lincoln Equities Group in 2020, the Hopewell Township Planning Board affirmed that the trail easement and its associated maintenance obligations remain with the LHTC; and

**WHEREAS**, after more than 20 years of continuous public use, the surface of the Elm Ridge segment has deteriorated to a point where rehabilitation is urgently needed to ensure the safety of cyclists, runners, pedestrians, and other trail users including many residents of Pennington Borough who rely on this segment for daily recreation and non-motorized transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of reconstruction represents a scale of expenditure that exceeds what the LHTC, as a lean nonprofit organization, can finance through its existing resources or available grant programs, and that is not covered by existing trail grant programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the reconstruction of the Elm Ridge segment would extend the useful life of this public asset by an estimated 20 years and restore safe, accessible, non-motorized transportation and recreation to the residents of Pennington Borough, Hopewell Township, and the broader Mercer County community; and

**WHEREAS**, the LHT hosts nearly 100,000 visits annually and contributes meaningfully to the public health, environmental stewardship, and quality of life of residents throughout Congressional District 12, including residents of Pennington Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the LHTC has identified the FY2027 Community Project Funding (CPF) program, administered through the United States House of Representatives Appropriations

Committee, as a potential source of federal funding for this rehabilitation project, and has prepared an application for such funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennington Borough Council finds that the reconstruction of the Elm Ridge segment is a project of significant public benefit and community importance to the residents of Pennington Borough, meriting the Borough's active support;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Council formally expresses its support for the reconstruction of the Elm Ridge segment of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail and recognizes it as a priority infrastructure project serving the residents of Pennington Borough and the surrounding region.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council endorses the application of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail Corporation for FY2027 Community Project Funding through the office of Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-CD 12), and encourages the favorable consideration of that application by the United States House Appropriations Committee.

**Record of Council Vote on Passage**

<b>COUNCILMAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>N.V.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>	<b>COUNCILMAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>N.V.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>
Angarone					Rubenstein				
Chandler					Stern				
Kassler-Taub					Valenza				

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington at a meeting on March 2, 2026.

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Elizabeth Sterling, Borough Clerk